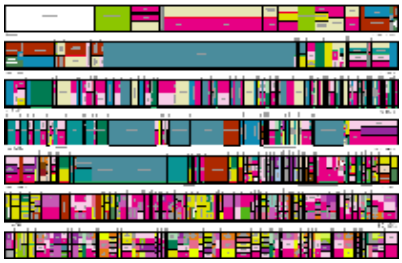


Inside this Issue:

The Washington SPECTRUM

A publication of the Office of Spectrum Policy and Management

Volume 3, Issue 2

Second Quarter FY 2002

Automation Team Inaugural Meeting

The first meeting of the Spectrum Engineering Automation Team was held at Ohio University on February 27th and 28th. The team members were named at the 2001 FMO Conference and consist of representatives from the Northwest Mountain, Central and Southwest Regions and Washington Headquarters. The two-day meeting was devoted to presenting two of the major projects being developed by ASR. The first day was devoted to the Expanded Service Volume Management System (ESVMS), while the second day was spent on the Windows conversion of the Automated Frequency Management System.

Mano Chitnambalam (OST), Sam Grant (ASW), and Marie Mader (ASR-100) discuss ESV issues.

Interference Monitoring Detection System (IMDS)

A national pilot program in collaboration with the Eastern (AEA), Great Lakes (AGL) and Western Pacific (AWP) Regions continues to be implemented. The IMDS will serve as the baseline national test bed network for the implementation of the National Airspace System Interference, Detection, Location, and Mitigation (NAS/IDLM) Program. The Joint Resource Council approved IDLM Mission Need on March 13, 2002. As part of the implementation of the IMDS Test Bed, ASR assisted the Eastern Region Frequency Management Office and the Liberty System Management Office with site suitability surveys of five candidate sites and two alternate sites around the New York metropolitan area. In addition, ASR conducted meetings with Airway Facilities management personnel in the AWP, AGL, and AEA regions to plan the IMDS national test bed network standard configuration. This standard configuration will be implemented among all three national test bed locations.

Deputy Program Director Announced

Oscar Alvarez, Manager of the Spectrum Assignment and Engineering Division, ASR-100 was selected for the Deputy Program Director position, ASR-2 effective April 8. Congratulations Oscar!

Support of Department of Defense Electronic Activities

The need for the Department of Defense (DOD) to train and exercise in electronic warfare environments continues to increase. Therefore, the requirement for the DOD to coordinate spectrum usage with the Federal Aviation Administration also increases. In order to safeguard the National Airspace System's use of the radio frequency spectrum, ASR serves as the focal and coordination point within the FAA for all DOD spectrum needs. For example, ASR leads coordination on all electronic attack/electronic warfare/Global Positioning System interference requests, in conjunction with ATP-200, per FAA Order 7610.11A.

Meeting with ACB-240 Personnel for Program Directive Review

A meeting was held January 22-25 with the staff of the Specialty and Infrastructure Engineering Group, ACB-240, from the William J. Hughes Technical Center to discuss the status of the FY-2002 Spectrum Program Directive. Among the issues discussed were the status of the NEXCOM testing program, the radio frequency interference (RFI) van project, the RFI training project, global positioning system vulnerability testing, and the frequency offset operational test. The status of funding for the Spectrum Program Directive was also discussed. ACB-240 provides very valuable assistance to ASR in the testing of existing and new electronic equipment to ensure they do not have an adverse impact on the current National Airspace Systems (NAS). Testing is also performed to develop frequency-engineering criteria, which is used to assign frequencies to the different facilities used in the NAS.

Continued Participation in the Evaluation of the Proposed Generic Remote Monitoring System (GRMS)

A visit to Custom Manufacturing and Engineering (CME) in St. Petersburg, Florida was made by ASR personnel, members of the In-Service Management Division, AOP-1000, and the Integrated Product Team Lead for Navigation and Landing Systems Acquisitions, AND-740. The purpose of the visit was to review the Phase II proposals for the GRMS. An issue from the previous review centered on the necessity for the proposed system to operate where there is already a remote maintenance/monitoring system in operation, such as when collocating with an instrument landing system (ILS). This would involve sharing the existing frequency and polling scheme. CME indicated that this would be impossible with the present design. It was decided that in such cases, the ILS would be retrofitted with the GRMS and would operate on the existing frequency.

Preparatory Meeting for 2003 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-2003) Held

Members of the ASR-200 staff participated in the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) meeting in Mexico City, Mexico, February 18-21, 2002. This is the North/Central/South American regional group which is preparing for WRC-2003. ASR worked with the administrations of other CITEL States to develop common proposals, favorable to civil aviation and United States (U.S.) objectives for WRC-2003. Issues addressed included the compatibility between radionavigation and radiolocation services, compatibility with the radionavigation-satellite systems (such as the Global Positioning System), allocation of spectrum for the Ground-Based Augmentation System (such as the U.S. Local Area Augmentation System, and spectrum sharing between the aeronautical radionavigation service and the fixed-satellite service. There are three more planned CITEL meetings before WRC-2003. ASR will continue to work within this group to ensure that CITEL common proposals continue to reflect the needs of civil aviation.

ASR Message Board

Join the discussions on the newly established ASR Message Board. Located on the ASR website at asr.faa.gov/mb/, you can share your opinions with your fellow frequency managers on topics like:

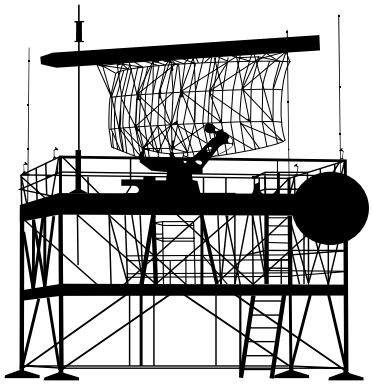
- *Airspace*
- *Radio Coverage Analysis System (RCAS)*
- *RFI Van*

...and more.

Add a new discussion group or join one already in progress, this site serves as a forum to share information on topics related to spectrum policy and management. Detailed instructions on using the site are located at: http://asr.faa.gov/library/doclibrary.htm

Assistance to the Southern Region to Resolve Radio Frequency Interference (RFI) Affecting Miami Air Route Traffic Control Center (ARTCC)

ASR participated in the RFI investigation of interference to the Miami ARTCC frequencies 133.85, 134.2, and 134.6 MHz caused by the use of high power cordless telephones (HPCT) in the Bahamas. Over 25 locations with HPCT emissions in the aeronautical radio spectrum were identified. These locations showed installations at three different islands, Bimini, New Providence, and Grand Bahamas. A meeting was held with the Bahamian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to provide a status of the RFI, a live demonstration of the interfering sources, and to discuss action plans to mitigate the impact to aviation operations. Bahamian and United States (U.S.) governments continue to work jointly on this issue and will closely coordinate with Bahamian and U.S. Customs to control the spread of these devices in the Bahamas. The proliferation of these devices is affecting FAA and military operations on the UHF portion of the spectrum.



Meeting with Air Transport Association

A meeting was recently held between ASR staff members, the Air Transport Association, and airline industry representatives to discuss the recent Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Report and Order on ultra-wideband implementation. The group addressed issues concerning radio spectrum protection of aeronautical safety services and the likely impact of the FCC decision. Among the remaining concerns are whether aviation's use of the Global Positioning System is protected and planned Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) actions to mitigate the potential interference. ASR, in particular, briefed the planned testing of several FAA systems that were not previously tested or have not been thoroughly tested. ASR also informed the group of the planned prototype fixed direction-finding systems in Los Angeles, Chicago, and New York that are being developed to locate ultra-wideband and other sources of interference to aeronautical systems. ASR will continue to work with industry groups such as this to ensure effective communication on these critical spectrum issues

Eurocontrol Hosts Meeting in Brussels, Belgium

Eurocontrol hosted a meeting of the RTCA special committee developing Universal Access Transceiver (UAT) Minimum Operational Performance Standards (MOPS) which was attended by ASR personnel. UAT is being used as an integral part of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Alaska Capstone trials, and is expected to be included in the upcoming FAA Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast (ADS-B) link decision. ASR support to the special committee has been central to its ability to select an operational frequency that minimizes impact on existing use of the spectrum, while maximizing UAT robustness. In addition, ASR initiated informal discussions with a representative of the military North Atlantic Treaty Organization forces, to ensure UAT compatibility with military systems such as Tactical Air Navigation and Joint Tactical Information Distribution System is fully understood.

ASR Plays Key Role in the Department of Transportation (DOT) Decision on the New Global Positioning System (GPS) Signal

ASR played a leadership role in the recent decision of DOT to non-concur with the draft version of the Department of Defense (DOD) GPS Acquisition Program Baseline (APB) document. The DOD document, delineating planned upgrades to the GPS constellation, was judged deficient because inter-agency agreements on power for the new civil GPS signal (GPS L5) had been breached. Such a failure to meet those GPS L5 power levels could have severely degraded the radio frequency interference immunity of the new signal, threatening planned national and international utilization. As a result of the non-concur, negotiations will be initiated between DOT and DOD with the goal of restoring the agreed GPS L5 power levels.

OFFICE OF SPECTRUM POLICY
AND MANAGEMENT
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION
800 INDEPENDENCE AVENUE, SW
ROOM 715
WASHINGTON, DC 20591

Gaskins, Mader, Richmond, and Moore Recognized

In March 2002, ASR recognized four individuals for outstanding achievement: Loretta Gaskins (ASR-200) was commended for her sustained superior performance in providing quality secretarial and administrative service to ASR-1 and ASR-200. Marie Mader (ASR-100) was applauded for her performance in the development of the VHF air/ground communications spectrum plan. Michael Richmond was commended for his performance in the areas of policy development in ultra-wideband implementation and for the drafting of FAA policies and positions for the World Radiocommunications Conference 2003. Finally, ASR recognized Samuel Moore (ATP-403) for his performance in the audit of current very high frequency air traffic control (ATC) communications frequencies, and for the coordination and validation of ATC frequency requirements.

Notes

The reorganization of the William J. Hughes Technical Center, which took effect on March 29, resulted in the relocation of Spectrum folks to the new Specialty and Infrastructure Engineering Group, ACB-240, under the leadership of Mr. Paul Dever.

The Washington SPECTRUM is a quarterly publication of the Office of Spectrum Policy and Management.

Editor:
Robert Drew
202-267-9710
Robert.G-CTR.Drew@faa.gov

Submission Coordinator:
Loretta Gaskins
202-267-9712
Loretta.Gaskins@faa.gov

Watch for the next edition of the Washington SPECTRUM online at:
www.faa.gov/ats/aaf/asr

ASR Vacancy Updates

The Telecommunications Specialist job vacancy in the Spectrum Assignment and Engineering Division, ASR-100, was re-advertised. The vacancy announcement opened April 16 and closes April 30. The vacancy announcement for the Management and Program Analyst position on the staff closed on March 14. Register of applicants is expected soon from AHR.